

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PRS-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

/070 W

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R 021255Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5401

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMIDEASTFOR BAHRAIN

S E C R E T TEHRAN 1050

KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BA

SUBJ: REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR MIDEASTFOR

REF: TEHRAN 0785 (DTG 261236Z JAN 76)

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH DEFREP FEBRUARY 1, GENERAL TOUFANIAN
RAISED SUBJECT OF U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE IN PERSIAN GULF. HIS
REMARKS EVIDENTLY WERE PROMPTED BY INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SHAH
AND WERE LINKED TO LATTER'S CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

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INTERVIEW (PARA 2 REFTTEL).

2. TOUFANIAN STRESSED THAT SO LONG AS THERE IS A SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND PERSIAN GULF, U.S. PRESENCE IS COMPLETELY WELCOME AND ACCEPTABLE TO IRAN. AS TO U.S. NAVY HOMEPORTING IN BAHRAIN, TOUFANIAN INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO OBJECTION BY IRAN, THERE WOULD BE NO PUBLIC SUPPORT BY GOI. HE IMPLIED THAT U.S. FACILITY AND COMIDEASTFOR WERE NOT SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT TO BE WITH EITHER AN DISAGREEMENT WITH OTHER PERSIAN GULF COUNTRIES OR POSSIBLE SOVIET REACTION IN THE AREA. HE POINTED OUT THAT VISITS BY U.S. TASK GROUPS TO THE PERSIAN GULF AND IRANIAN PORTS WERE ALWAYS WELCOME.

3. TOUFANIAN STATED THAT IRAN WISHED TO DISCOURAGE USSR FROM INCREASING ITS ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL INDIAN OCEAN PRESENCE. IRAN STRONGLY OPPOSES SOVIET VISITS TO BASRA AND DOES NOT WISH OFFER ANY ENCOURAGEMENT TO SOVIETS TO MAKE SUCH VISITS. IN THIS CONTEXT, SHAH'S DISPARAGING REMARKS ABOUT COMIDEASTFOR SHIPS (FOR EXAMPLE, IN MONITOR INTERVIEW) MIGHT HELP REDUCE SOVIET PRESSURE FOR MORE SUBSTANTIAL PRESENCE IN PERSIAN GULF AREA.
HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEHRAN01050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760039-0018
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760290/aaaadbke.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TEHRAN 785
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR MIDEASTFOR
TAGS: MARR, BA, US, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006